

**THE SHAWNEE SLATE**  
**LLEWELLYN ALSPACH, EDITOR**

**RESIDENCE: 46989 TOOLRY ROAD KONAWA, OK 74849**

**MAILING ADDRESS: P.O.BOX 53 SAINT LOUIS, OK 74866**

**EMAIL: LLEWELLYN53@HOTMAIL.COM**



**SHAWNEE GEM & MINERAL CLUB**

**NEXT MEETING**  
**TUESDAY JUNE 11, 2013 6:30PM**  
**FIRST UNITED BANK**  
**912 E. INDEPENDENCE ST.**  
**SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA**

**VISITORS WELCOME**

## Club Officers For 2013

### President

Shanda McDonald

### Vice President

Dianna Morris

### Secretary

Robin & Anne Elliott

### Treasurer

Tracie Portrey

### Editor

Llewellyn Alspach

Email: [llewellyn53@hotmail.com](mailto:llewellyn53@hotmail.com)

### Contributing Editor

George Finley & Mandie Briant

### The Club Mailing Address

Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club

c/o Tom Morris

111 West Hickory

Shawnee, Oklahoma 74804

405-386-2314

[tomor@mcloudteleco.com](mailto:tomor@mcloudteleco.com)

The Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club is a non-profit organization. The purpose is to promote the study and appreciation of rocks, gems, minerals and fossils. We teach any and all relevant techniques and the AFMS CODE of ETHICS. We have a club library that is listed in the club directory. These books can be checked out on club nights by prior arrangement. Kept for a month and returned or pay an overdue at rate agreed on by the club.

**When you are hiking or rock collecting and you run into an area of suspected illegal marijuana growing, Take a GPS reading and leave the area immediately. Gowers are armed and dangerous. Telltale signs are trash and 1" size black plastic tubings on the ground used for irrigation. Report the findings to the local Department of Public Safety.**

## Club Information

### Meetings

Regular meetings are the second Tuesday of each month, held at the First United Bank conference room. 5:30 for juniors and 6:30 for the regular membership meetings. The First United Bank is located at 912 E. Independence Street, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

The Shawnee Gem & mineral Club is one of the clubs that make up the **OKLAHOMA STATE COUNCIL of MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.**

It is a member of **THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION of MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES** and **THE AMERICAN FEDERATION of MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.**

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Single membership.....	\$15.00
Family membership.....	\$20.00
Junior membership.....	\$6.00
Newsletter only.....	\$9.00

The Shawnee Slate is now available for free download on the club web site listed below. It is in the PDF format. Any photos or graphics in the newsletter can only be seen in color in the electronic version. There will be a year printed on your mailing label. This is the year for which your dues were last paid. Please check the year and be sure your dues are up to date. Also notify the editor if there is any mistake in your name, address, email address or dues paid status.

### EXCHANGE BULLETINS WELCOME

For exchange newsletters contact the club via mailing address listed above.

Permission is granted to reprint articles only if proper credit is given to the author, Shawnee Slate and the date.

It is new and interactive! Check it out every month.

**Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club  
Web Site**

<http://www.sgams.net>

2013

June Birthdays

Bobby Rogers	June 3
Joshua Briant	June 1
Jason Briant	June 20
Kenny Sheldon	June 26
Carolyn Johnson	June 26
Billie Jackson	June 20

June Anniversaries

Tom & Dianna	June 21
Monte & Mr. Surber	June 20
Lou & Bob Pickard	June ??
Alan & Lynda Hamilton	June 25

Our Sick Members

**Tom Morris was injured and required surgery to repair him.**

I had a heart attack the other day and haven't been released to do much yet. Dr. don't think there was any permanent damage so I should be as good as new in a few weeks. Bobby

**Please pray for our sick members a speedy recovery.**

**Please let the editor know if you or someone we know is sick.**

Special Intentions

For those who are ill and ones we don't know about. For friends and family we have lost. Those who have gone on to Rock Hound Heaven. (Our prayers are with you).

CondolencesJune Refreshments

Drinks	Other
George F.	Shanda M.

**Save canceled stamps**

(bring to the membership meeting)

Some people have ask me what this is for. Found a person in the RMFMS Susan Athens and ask her. She said (What I do is collect them for the Federation. We will find someone that will need them for medical help. For Example time on the kidney dialysis machine.) So; if you bring them, I will mail them to her and maybe they will help some unfortunate person in some way.

**Up Coming Shows and Events**

**June 7-9**—COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO: Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show; Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society; Western Museum of Mining and Industry; 225 North Gate Blvd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; adults \$5 (includes museum entry), children free; special meteorite exhibit, meteorite dealers, operating antique steam engine and stamp mill, kids' area, gold panning, silent auction, minerals, gemstones, jewelry; contact Kim Packham, 87 Plum Creek Rd., Divide, CO 80814, (719) 360-9665; e-mail: runninboar@hotmail.com

**June 28-30**—GRAPEVINE, TEXAS: Annual show; EGI Show; Grapevine Convention Center; 1209 S. Main St.; Fri. 11-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, children free; beads, fine jewelry, fine jade jewelry, real pearls, sterling silver jewelry, pewter findings, spacers, beading supplies, beading class; contact John Soo, 13337 South St. #633, Cerritos, CA 90703, (714) 494-4546; e-mail: egi168@hotmail.com; Web site: www.egishows.com

**July 13-14**—TULSA, OKLAHOMA: Annual show; Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society; Exchange Center I; Tulsa Fairgrounds, 21st and Yale Ave.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, Scouts, military, fire and police in uniform free, children (under 12) free with adult; gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils, fluorescent minerals, beads, findings, dealers, silent auction, spinning wheel, grab bags, displays, working exhibits, programs, kids' area, door prizes; contact Finis Riggs, 1331 S. Atlanta Place, Tulsa, OK 74104, (918) 587-4400; e-mail: lriggs1331@cox.net; Web site: ttownrockhound.org

**August 8-11**—BUENA VISTA, COLORADO: 30th Annual Contin-Tail Rock & Gem Show; Contin-Tail LLC; Rodeo Grounds; Gregg Dr. and Rodeo Rd.; Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; more than 100 dealers, rocks, minerals, gemstones, fossils, beads, jewelry, lapidary tools and equipment, free rocks for kids, fluorescent mineral display; contact Carolyn Tunncliff, 1130 Francis #7010, Longmont, CO 80501, (720) 938-4194; e-mail: ctunncliff@comcast.net; Web site: www.coloradorocks.org

**August 16-17, 2013** Tahlequah, OK Tahlequah Rock & Mineral Society Annual Show, Community Bldg. 300 W. 1st St.; contact 918-284-5770 or 918-456-8198

Here are current listings for all over the country. When you are on vacation, you might just be near a really great show. Check it out. <http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>

### Happy Wild and Wonderful June!

What about this weather?!?!? I've been thinking about all those Tecumseh mud balls that are rearing their muddy little heads just waiting for someone to come pluck them out of the creek bank. (Just a tiny hint to the fieldtrip committee). We had a wonderful turnout to our May Monthly Meeting and Silent Auction. It was a joy to see the smiling faces of our SGAMC family as they mingled and milled around tables laden with rocky treasures, visiting, laughing and outbidding each other. (The credenza behind my office desk has happily accepted it's new additions of petrified algae and calcite crystal).

I didn't have an opportunity to do any rock hunting on my trip to Atlanta weekend before last, but I truly enjoyed playing music at the 2013 Catapult Contra dance weekend, and I fell in love with the tall Pines and Magnolia trees of North Georgia. I came home and fell into wedding mode for my youngest daughter Jenna, (sewing, cooking, prepping, decorating) , and this last Saturday, finished up my vacation as the storm clouds parted to a sunshiny, glorious, cool breeze day for an outside wedding of white chiffon, candelabras, cupcakes, luncheon, sunflowers and daisies.

Back to rocks: Monday morning, I arrived at my office to find a gift from one of my customers: a 10 pound hunk of Brazilian Amethyst. Added to my office credenza collection, it rounds out my display nicely.

I'm so looking forward to our June meeting next week, and since I'm in charge of snacks, I'm thinking something TexMex would be Fantastic!

Wishing you all a safe and happy week!!!

See you soon!

Shandamac

### Hotdog Cookout for June 8th The Briant Family

We will be hosting a cookout on June 8th starting at 5pm for the Shawnee Gem and Mineral Club. We would love for everyone to come! We will have hotdogs and all the fixings (and making pea salad and pork n beans). We will also have all the chips and drinks. If you want (but don't feel obligated) you can bring a side dish or dessert. And please bring lawn chairs. If it is raining we can move inside. We look forward to seeing everyone! Please call me (Mandie) for directions and if you have any questions. (405)820-0685).

## Shawnee Gem and Mineral Club Meeting Minutes May 14, 2013

Members Present: 22 Guests: 0 Junior Members Present: 9 A Quorum is present.

Shanda McDonald, club president, opened the meeting with a field trip report. Many members mentioned how enjoyable the trip to Arkansas was. Tony said that the people who owned the mine were exceptionally nice with many others agreeing. It was suggested that we plan another trip to this site. Tony also suggested that the club send a thank you card that members sign at the June meeting.

Minutes: Motion made to accept the minutes was made by Tom Morris with a second by George Finley.

**Old Business:** George shared that he has successfully added the past two month's newsletters to the web site, with the help of his grandson. Thank you George!

Treasurer's Report was given by Tracie Portrey saying that we are in good shape financially.

Discussion was revisited about whether the club should pay field trip entry fees for its members. This matter was discussed at the May meeting, but the club was distracted from coming to any conclusion because of the excitement of planning for the field trip to the Quartz Mine.

Robin Elliott made a motion that members evaluate each upcoming trip as to decide how much money the club will pay for each member to participate in that specific field trip. A second was made by Tony Knox. Motion passed.

Discussion was opened as to whether the club would pay entry fees for the past field trip. Because of the discussion at the April meeting, most members assumed that the club had planned pay these fees. Entry fees were only \$15 for each adult and \$5 for each child. Six children and twenty adults attended. Total cost was \$330 for this particular trip.

Tracie Portrey made a motion to pay the entry fees for the members who attended the Quartz Mine field trip. A second was made by Marcus Carson. Much discussion followed. Tom informed members that the topic could be tabled until the June meeting when it can be discussed further. The club decided on this action.

Several suggestions were made for members to consider for the June meeting:

1. A dollar amount be designated for entry fees
2. A scholarship be funded for members needing financial assistance
3. Fees be paid only if the club's bank account is over a certain dollar amount
4. Income from specific events be earmarked for entry fees
5. Only cover entry fee for kids

In the course of our discussion, members realized that Llewellyn has provided the meat and "stuff" for club cookouts at field trips. It was suggested that the club take this responsibility and many members said a big, "Thank You!" to Llewellyn.

**New Business:** Mandie Briant talked about the Junior Rock exchange that for our kids to participate in. She asked for rock donations to exchange with another club. We would send one box of Oklahoma rocks in exchange for a box of rocks from Nebraska. We would send one flat rate postal box costing \$10.00 which would ship up to 70 pounds of rocks.

Mandy asked members for suggestions about field trips; maybe some places that we have already gone to, but would like to visit again. Llewellyn volunteered to contact the owners of the land where we hunt boley agates and will try to set up a trip soon.

Tracie suggested a trip to Lake Whitney where her family has found several nice fossils.

Shanda shared that a friend of hers has been finding nice fossils down by the Arbuckles at the "outlook" turn-offs of I-35.

**Sunshine Report:** Birthday wishes were extended to all who had reason to celebrate birthdays or anniversaries in the month of May. Llewellyn shared an update about Carolyn Johnson's husband. He is doing better after a rough stretch.

Lena Hurley was able to go on the Quartz Mine trip and everyone was glad to here this.

A special "Thank You" was extended by all the club members to Mandy Briant for helping coordinate the trip to Arkansas and the cook out as well as to Marcus Carson for finding the mine for us.

THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!

Cont. Pg 04

Meeting minutes Cont. from Pg 04

Tracie Portrey informed the club that there will be a Quilt and Quartz Festival at this same place in October. Many “oohs” and “ahhhs” were heard around the room.

George Finley suggested that members think about new activities for the Free Fair (Pottawatomie County Fair in August-September) and Boo on Bell Street in October. It was suggested that we make and place flyers in schools. Marcus informed the club that he has offered to give Informational Talks to the Choctaw School System, but they have not been interested. It was also suggested that the home school community be given an opportunity to have some of the members speak to them.

Marcus suggested that Llewellyn have a short beginner wire wrap class to instruct members how to wrap their quartz finds from the Arkansas trip. Members then shared about some of their finds from the Arkansas trip.

The Silent Auction was held following the meeting with snacks provided by Dottie Smith.

SGMC Secretary, Robin Elliott

### **Our Trip to the Sweet Surrender Crystal Mines**

This trip to the Sweet Surrender Crystal Mine in Mount Ida was one of the best trips we have had. The winding roads up into Arkansas made the long drive easy. On the way up we saw the highly vegetated Ouachita Mountains. The camp we decided to stay at had pretty cabins by the lake. They were fully furnished so it made it easy to enjoy our weekend.

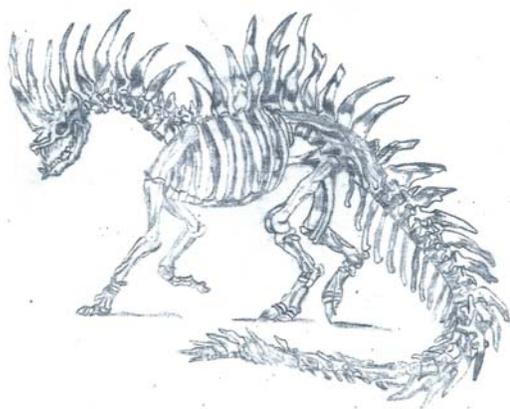
Saturday was the big day. We got up bright and early for a nice day of digging. We met at the mine and had a brief safety course about how to be safe while digging for crystals. We started off finding crystals everywhere. They had just turned over the ground and the rain the night before washed all the dirt off the quartz crystals so they were easy to spot. It was amazing how many crystals we found. One was said to be worth more than 300.00.

The weather cooperated with us by not being as hot as it could have been. I think everyone came away with some unique finds.

That night our group came together and had hotdogs and cookies. The kids got to play in the lake and fish for a bit. It was a good end to a long day. This is one of the places we would like to revisit.

The End.

By Tracie Portrey



## Junior Dragons

## Kids Page

The following link is an interesting bit of information on the Horned Lizard. For those juniors who enjoy catching reptiles on field trips.

[http://www.desertusa.com/reptiles/horned-lizard.html?utm\\_source=May+2013+%235&utm\\_campaign=May+31+Newsletter&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.desertusa.com/reptiles/horned-lizard.html?utm_source=May+2013+%235&utm_campaign=May+31+Newsletter&utm_medium=email)

### Our Family Rock Adventures For MayBy: The Briant Kids

This month we got to go rock hunting a couple of times. We took friends to hunt Mud Balls, they had never seen them before. We found quiet a few. Some were big and some were small. We still have some to break open. We also found a very large piece of hematite and some really nice (and really cool) hematite conglomerates. It was fun taking friends to find new kinds of rocks. There has to be millions more Mud Balls to find!

We got to go to Arkansas with our club to a quartz mine called Sweet Surrender. We had so much fun and we found a lot of really neat crystals. The people that run the mine are so nice and helped us look for crystals. We also had a fun cookout and got to camp for two nights. On our way home, we also found wavellite. It is so pretty. We found this not far from the Sweet Surrender mine.

We got the box of rocks from the Jr. Lincoln, Nebraska Gem and Mineral Club. We will have fun at our next meeting going through them and dividing them up. We still have our box to mail. Jrs. if you want to send some rocks, please bring them to the next meeting. We will mail the box the next day. We have rose rocks, salt crystals, mud balls, boley agates, fossils, petrified wood, and New Mexico agates. Someone is bringing, barite balls, calcite crystals and hematite.

We have had a lot of fun this month rock hunting and being with friends. We have also started a rock garden. This month has also been scary because of the tornadoes. But, hopefully tornado season will be over soon. At least the rain is uncovering new rocks!

For camping at night while on rockhound trips. Leave 1/4 Mountain Dew in the bottle (just don't drink it all), add a tiny bit of baking soda and 3 caps of peroxide. Put the lid on and shake --Walla!! Homemade glow stick (bottle) solution. Super cool !!!!

Untried by editor - Author Unknown

## How to Cut Obsidian

Author unknown

**GOLD SHEEN:** To get the most out of mahogany gold sheen obsidian, saw with the bands, as if they were a stack of plates, and you wish to unstuck them. Watch for “fire spots” in gold sheen. It is not plentiful, but opallike colors do sometimes occur in mahogany gold sheen.

**IRIDESCENT:** There are two types of iridescent obsidian. In cutting both correctly, the orientation of the color is most important. One type of obsidian is banded and the color lies in the bands. On the unbanded types of obsidian the surface has to be chipped to find the color. The banded type will have several colors or shades, while the unbanded types will have only one color. Cut the banded material parallel to the bands to get effect. To get a rainbow effect, cut the stone at an approximately 15-degree angle across the bands.

**MIDNIGHT LACE:** Lace-patterned obsidian should be cut across the surface pattern that you desire to reproduce. Although obsidian is comparatively soft, it is still very important to sand away all scratches before going to polish. Some advise that wet sanding be done, since obsidian is heat sensitive and very brittle. For final polish, felt with cerium oxide is the choice. Should you be faceting some particularly gemmy obsidian try ceriumoxide on Lucite®, but keep it wet.

**RAINBOW OBSIDIAN:** Cut parallel to flow layers. These can be seen by examining fractured surfaces using an overhead single lamp bulb. As [the layers] are not always straight, it may be necessary to turn the stone slightly in the saw. Examine each slab set with either water or saw oil to see if the correct angle has been obtained.

**SAFETY TIP:** After obsidian is sawed, be sure to bevel the edges all around on your fine grinding wheel to keep them from flaking and chipping. Wear goggles or glasses at all times. If a small chip of glass (obsidian) got into your eye, it would be hard to remove as it is transparent and hard to see even with a powerful magnifying glass, and the edges may cut your eye to a great extent before it could be removed.

**GRINDING OBSIDIAN CABS:** Approach your grinding wheel with the material at a slight horizontal angle. If brought straight in, it may be a “shattering” experience, as obsidian fractures conchoidally and this is a sure way to do it.

**POLISH ON OBSIDIAN:** Keep the polishing wheel wet. A dry polishing will result in blisters and scratches. Obsidian is relatively inexpensive, easy to obtain and soft. With proper understanding of its glassy properties you can obtain some beautiful results. --from *Golden Frog*, February 2005